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SOUPCE Izvestiya, No 215, 1949.

NOTES IMPORTANT ROLE OF CONSUMERS' COOPERATIVES

The consumers' cooperatives of the USER unite 32 million shareholders and include more than 28,000 consumers' associations.

Soviet consumers' cooperatives, accounting for about 25 percent of the retail trade of the country, play an important part in the national economy. They purchase 40 percent of the total potato crop or the country, over 30 percent of the vegetables, and about three fourths of the egg production.

By 1 January 1949, they had 3,000 shops, stores, and stalls, and over 24,000 public feeding enterprises.

The rural trade of the consumers' cooperatives increased by 17 percent in 1948 as compared to 1947.

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